

App. No. 10/626935
Office Action Dated July 6, 2004
Amd. Dated November 4, 2004

REMARKS

Reconsideration is respectfully requested in view of the above amendments and following remarks. Claim 1 has been amended editorially. No new matter has been added. Claims 1-4 are pending.

Applicant appreciates the indication of allowable subject matter in claims 2-4.

Claim rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claim 1 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Yuge (US 6,401,392). Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection.

Claim 1 is directed to a structure of a door opening/closing apparatus. The apparatus comprises an arm member coupled to a door of a vehicle, which closes a door opening of a body panel. A seal member is provided along an inner peripheral edge of the body panel defining the door opening of the vehicle body and a through opening in the seal member through which the arm member protrudes.

Yuge teaches a power operating apparatus for a vehicle door moveable between an opened position and a closed position. A through opening (13) is defined by an opening (an elliptical slot) formed in the inner body panel (17) of the rear end of the vehicle body and an opening (an elliptical slot) is formed in the outer body panel (16) of the rear end of a vehicle body. The through opening is arranged outside of the inner peripheral edge of the door opening. A seal (14) is fitted onto the outwardly flanged portion (16c) of the body panel (16), around the entire circumference of the flanged portion.

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Yuge fails to disclose or suggest a seal member is provided along an inner peripheral edge of a body panel defining a door opening of a vehicle body. Thus, Yuge fails to anticipate claim 1. Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

In view of the above, favorable reconsideration in the form of a notice of allowance is requested. Any questions or concerns regarding this communication can be directed to the undersigned attorney, Curtis B. Hamre, Reg. No. 29,165, at (612) 336.4722.

Respectfully submitted,

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Dated: November 4, 2004

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CBH:mmm